

Weetslade
Urban District Council.



REPORT



OF THE
Medical Officer of Health

— For the Year 1920. —

MORPETH:

Printed by J. & J. S. Mackay, Bridge Street.

1921.

WEETSLADE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1920.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,—

We have the honour to present to you a short report for the year 1920. This office was held by the former of us until the end of September, and by the latter during the remaining three months. For this reason we decided to collaborate in the compilation of this report.

Infectious Diseases.—During the year we received notifications of 75 cases of infectious disease. Measles ceased to be a notifiable disease, with the result that the figure is considerably below that of last year (152), which included 56 cases of measles. Table II. of this report shows the number of the respective diseases and the locality in which they occurred. It will be seen that diphtheria forms a considerable proportion of the cases. Epidemics of this disease took place in the early and late months of the year, and were generally distributed. Dudley was the least affected. We entertain no doubt that this disease is endemic in the district and owes its origin, to a large extent, to the open privy middens which are numerous throughout the area. Tuberculosis cases were notified to us in about an average number. Otherwise the incidence of zymotic diseases is satisfactory.

Vital Statistics.—The Registrar - General estimated the population for death-rate and birth-rate purposes as 6,912. The population at the Census of 1911 was 6,701.

The number of births registered during the year was 244—129 males and 115 females. There is a considerable increase on last year. There were seven illegitimate births—4 males and 3 females. The birth-rate was a high one, viz., 35.30 per 1,000 of the population.

The number of deaths belonging to the district was 88. This corresponds to an annual death-rate of 12.73 per 1,000 of the population, and is a lower rate than last year. There were 24 deaths of infants under one year of age, with an infantile mortality of 98.36 per 1,000 births. Though the rate is a decrease on that of last year, it is still deplorably high in spite of the good work of a Health Visitor from the County Council, who paid regular visits to the district, and the industrial prosperity prevailing at the time. One of us reported to you the urgency of further efforts to preserve infantile life.

Housing.—A complete inspection of Housing Conditions throughout the area was made for the purpose of amending the "survey of housing needs" form. A full report was made to you at the time. The deplorable state of housing was pointed out. Much of the property cannot be made fit for habitation and must be closed as soon as alternative accommodation can be provided. Repair work on other houses has been in progress, but there still remains much to be done. It is to be hoped that new houses may soon be available.

We are, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servants,

**ROBERT RAFFLE,
THEODORE CRAIG.**

Dudley, S.O.,

Northumberland.

July 2nd, 1921.

Table I.
VITAL STATISTICS.

Year.	Estimated Population for Birth Rate.	Estimated Population for Death Rate.	Births.		Deaths. Under 1 year of age.		Deaths. At all ages.	
			Number.	Rate.	Number.	Rate per 1000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1916	6682	6141	215	32.17	18	83.7	88	14.7
1917	—	—	177	25.3	25	141.2	83	13.2
1918	6836	6101	173	25.3	15	86.6	107	17.1
1919	6924	6647	173	24.9	21	121.3	108	16.2
1920	6912	6912	244	35.30	24	98.36	88	12.73


TABLE II.—Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1920.
Name of District. WEETSLADE URBAN DISTRICT.

Notifiable Disease.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.								TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.							Total Cases removed to Hospital.
	At all ages.	At Ages—Years.							(e.g. Parish or Ward).							
		Under 1.	1 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 years and upwards.	1. Dudley.	2. Seaton Burn.	3. Annitstford.	4. Hazelrigg and Wideopen.	5.	6.	7.	
Small-pox																
Cholera (C) Plague (P)																
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup)...	32	1	10	16	2	3			2	10	13	7			6	
Erysipelas	2					2										
Scarlet Fever	9		2	6		1				4		5			1	
Malaria Fever																
Enteric Fever	1								1							
Relapsing Fever (R)																
Continued Fever (C)																
Puerperal Fever																
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis																
Poliomyelitis																
Pulmonary Tuberculosis...	10					7	3		5	1	1	3				
Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis	2			2						1	1					
Acute Primary Pneumonia	19	2	7	3	3	3	1		1	12	4	2				
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia																
Totals...	75	3	19	27	5	16	5	0	9	29	19	18			7	

Table III.

Causes of Death in Weetslade Urban District.
1920.

Causes of Death. (Civilians Only.)	Males.	Females.
All Causes	45	43
Whooping Cough	1	2
Diphtheria and Croup	1	3
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	3	2
Tuberculous Meningitis		
Other Tuberculous Diseases		1
Cancer, Malignant Disease	1	
Organic Heart Disease	4	2
Bronchitis	7	6
Pneumonia (all forms)	3	6
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	1
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	3	4
Congenital Debility, etc.	3	1
Violence, apart from Suicide	4	1
Other Defined Diseases	13	13
Causes, ill defined or unknown	1	1



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30242757>

